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POULTRY FACTS.

ROOSTER LOWERS EGG YIELD

Interesting Tests Made at New York Experiment Station on Presence of Males in Flock.

The belief used to be general many years ago that hens would not lay without the presence of a male bird in the flock. And even today there are a few people that contend the male stimulates egg production to a greater or less extent. Men who have raised poultry for years still cling to this notion and persist in keeping a lot of males hanging about where only eggs are wanted.

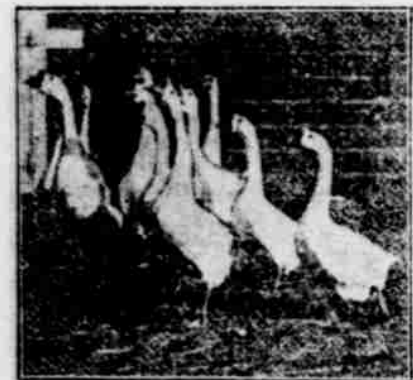
The New York Experimental station made up four pens of pullets, two consisting of purebred stock and two of mixed stock. With one pen of each class cockerels were kept, while with the others none were allowed. The cockerels were put with the two pens two months before any began laying. Some pullets in each of the two pens in which no cockerels were put began laying a month before any in the two containing cockerels. The fowls were of the Atlantic breeds and rather persistent sitters. No attempt was made to discourage any of the hens from sitting, and there seemed to be no difference in the relative number of sitters in the contrasted pens. Of the cross-bred pullets the lot without males laid better throughout the season and also during the heat egg season. Of the other lot the one without males began laying earlier and did better than the one with males during the first part of the season, but it fell slightly behind for the latter months, though during that period they kept even with the lot which was accompanied by males. It was thought that the vice of feather eating which broke out in this pen had much to do with the falling off in egg production.

From these experiments it would seem that the presence of males has a detrimental influence upon the egg yield. This is also the theory advanced by many in recent years, and it is now pretty generally accepted by prominent egg farmers.

HINTS ON DUCKS AND GEES

Newly Hatched Goslings Weigh About Four Ounces—Turkeys Are Slow at the Start.

A Pekin duckling weighs about two ounces when hatched and should take on weight as follows: Three to four weeks, 1 pound; six to eight weeks, 4 to 4½ pounds; and at ten weeks,



White China Goose.

5½ to 6 pounds. Ducklings should be marketed from nine to twelve weeks of age. After that they take on weight slowly, and it is not profitable to keep them longer than twelve weeks.

Geese grow about as rapidly as ducks. Allowance of coarse must be made for the original difference in size—newly hatched goslings weighing about four ounces. Turkeys do not grow rapidly at the start, but develop much quicker after three months of age.

POULTRY NOTES

It is hard to fatten a stunted chicken.

Boys and girls should be encouraged to raise poultry.

Wet feet are just as bad for hens as they are for folks.

The hen that lays 150 eggs in a year is doing mighty good laying.

For the city market there is nothing between the broiler and roaster.

Every week there should be a fresh supply of clean, fine earth in the dust box.

No wonder some men's hens never weigh anything. The lice have just about carried them away.

Nobody wants to lay a dirty egg, and the only way to keep the eggs clean is to keep the nests clean.

Middlings and cornmeal wet with skim milk make a fine forcing feed for chicks that are to be marketed.

Spraying a chicken house with 1 to 20 solution of lime-sulphur will effectively destroy all mites and lice.

An unruly or greedy rooster has no place in a chicken yard; the dinner table is the safest roost for him.

Well managed poultry is preferable to farm crops in that poultry will produce an income at all times of the year.

There is no such thing as egg laying type. There is but one true test of the layer, and that is by the aid of the trap nest.

LIVE STOCK

PREPARE FOR SUMMER

Clean Out Stables Before Hot Weather Sets In.

Never Allow Manure to Accumulate, as It Is Disease Breeder—Open Doors and Windows so Fresh Air Can Circulate.

Clean out the stables, sheep and hog pens before hot weather sets in. Fermenting manure, if allowed to remain in the stables and sheds, will produce blindness in sheep and tuberculosis in cattle. Never let the manure accumulate in the stables; it is a fruitful source of disease, and when a disease once enters a herd of cattle or flock of sheep there is nearly always a loss of more than one animal, says a writer in the Baltimore American. A farmer who should have known better lost recently four valuable horses from the lung fever, caused by piling a large quantity of manure in an adjoining stable to help keep the stock warm.

The gases from fermenting horse manure is very fatal to stock when allowed to remain in a close stable.

Fermenting manure under horses' feet will cause scratches and puslike sores, both of which produce lameness, hard to cure. The best way is to clean out the stables every morning, dust the floors with dry plaster to absorb the ammonia, open windows and doors, so that the fresh air can enter and blow out the bad air.

When the day is rainy is a good time to sweep down the walls and ceilings and to whitewash.

The best whitewash for inside work is made as follows:

Stone lime, one-half bushel; add sufficient boiling water to slake it, cover to keep in the steam. Mix together one peck of fine salt previously dissolved in warm water, two pounds of glue dissolved in three quarts of warm water, six ounces of bicarbonate of potash and one-half pound of whiting. Add these to the lime, stir thoroughly, strain and apply hot with a brush or a spray pump.

One bushel of lime makes thirty gallons of whitewash. Put on two coats. This wash will not rub off. To disinfect the stables, add one-quarter of a pound of bichloride of lime to each gallon of wash.

This lime disinfects and sweetens and brightens the stables. If the whitewash is strained it can be quickly applied with a small force-spray pump.

Whitewash for outside of building is made as follows:

Slake in boiling water one-half bushel of lime, cover to keep in steam, strain, add two pounds of sulphate of zinc, one pound of salt and one-half pound of Spanish whiting, thoroughly dissolved. Mix with enough skim milk to make it spread easily and apply hot.

Coloring matter may be added to produce the desired shade. If white is not desired. Apply when the wood-work is dry and when weather is clear. This is a double wash and much cheaper than paint.

PLAN OF MOVABLE HOG COT

One Shown in Illustration Provides More Room Than "A"-Shaped Affairs—Easily Ventilated.

We are firm believers in the individual brood pen. For several years we used the A-shaped hog cot, but we like the one we are now using much better, writes Fred Baird of Cass county, Nebraska, in the Missouri Valley Farmer. It provides more room in a

pen of the same size. It can be ventilated without having a draught. In cold weather the cot is set facing the southeast and the top door opened so the sun can shine in.

Care of Mare in Foal.

A pregnant mare should always be kept in a box stall. It is afraid to lie down in the ordinary stall for fear of not being able to rise again, and this constant standing up is very harmful.

In mild weather mares must be kept in the open sheds outside, both day and night. Each mare should have a special place where it is tied to receive its grain feed. If fed from an ordinary trough, the more vicious mares may kick the others and gobble most of the feed. Roughage may safely be fed from racks in the yard.

FOR BETTER ROADS

CURE FOR INDUSTRIAL EVILS

When Time and Labor Unnecessarily Consumed in Transporting Products There Is Big Waste.

If the public could be convinced that it is economy to begin with the fundamentals the problem of progress in every line of social endeavor would be solved.

At present the sole remedy for many industrial evils lies in the betterment of roads.

Manifestly, when time is unnecessarily consumed and labor wasted in transportation of products to market there is a fundamental waste. One instance will serve as an illustration. A man loaded his wagon early one morning with a bale of cotton and a few bags of the loose product. He lived twenty-two miles from town. The roads in that section are better than the average, but it took him until midnight to reach the selling point. He and his half-grown son, who accompanied him, spent the night in town, paying the expense of lodging, meals and keep for the team. The second day was spent in negotiations for the sale of the cotton and the purchasing of a few necessities. They arrived on the third day late in the afternoon, having lost practically three days.

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If this farmer had raised small marketable crops—which he didn't—he could not afford the time or give up the use of his team to take them to the nearest point. A few sweet potatoes, cotton and corn were the sole products raised.

If his place had been mortgaged for the building of a pike or trolley line connecting him with a market there would be hope of paying out. As conditions are, he gets poorer and more hopeless every year.

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In Recent Message to New York Legislature He Laid Down Law in No Uncertain Terms.

Governor Sulzer of New York is a road booster of the right type. In his recent message to the New York legislature he "laid down the law" to the legislators in no uncertain terms, pointed out defects in New York's road laws and pronounced the doom of the spoilsmen who had been fattening on the people's money, says the Southern Good Roads. In his message he paid this great tribute to good roads:

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A Good Road in Ohio.

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